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REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 24, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, and 17-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, and 17-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Rejections of claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10-14, 18, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10-14, 18, and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,790,633 issued to Kinser, Jr. et al. ("Kinser") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,445,774 issued to Kidder et al. ("Kidder") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,352 issued to Kannan et al. ("Kannan"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1 and 18 because none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of claims 1 and 18.

Regarding claims 1 and 18, the Examiner states that Kinser teaches a method for proactively maintaining a telephone system local loop comprising communication with a communication network and acquiring status information "which can include *at least one of engineering information*, customer information, maintenance information, service information and real-time information in (see col. 25 lines 5-9 and lines 35-44) by receiving information including customer information, alarm associated with cable pressure systems and using information received LMOS (loop maintenance operations system) which supplies maintenance information which includes line records and identify network troubles" (Office Action dated

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May 24, 2005, page 3; emphasis added by Applicants). Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to claims 1 and 18, which recite "status information *including engineering information relating to government regulations, and at least one of...*". Kinser fails to teach or suggest status information including engineering information, much less status information including engineering information relating to government regulations, as recited in claims 1 and 18. Rather, the activities conducted by Kinser teach analyzing a telephone line via an Automatic Line Insulation Test (ALIT) performed on the line and determining whether a cable associated with the line may have a potential problem (e.g., failure, leakage) (col. 24, lines 29-34 and lines 49-55).

The sections of Kinser relied upon by the Examiner in columns 24-26, at best, relate generally to operations data or information relating to customer issues, not engineering data. Moreover, none of the cited art references (Kinser, Kidder, and Kannan) even remotely suggest acquiring engineering information that relates to government regulations. The government regulations generally referenced by Kannan, and relied upon by the Examiner, are directed to those associated with implementing number resource management activities, and not engineering activities. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 18 patentably define over Kinser, in view of Kidder, and further in view of Kannan.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10-12, and 21-23 depend from what should be an allowable claim 1. For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10-12, and 21-23 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

The Applicants further submit that claim 13 is patentable over Kinser, in view of Kidder and further in view of Kannan for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claims 1

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and 18. Claim 14 depends from what should be an allowable claim 13. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection.

Rejections of claims 4, 17, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 4, 17 and 19-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kinser, in view of Kidder, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,902, issued to Kulatunge et al. ("Kulatunge") and Kannan.

Claim 4 depends from what should be an allowable claim 1. Claims 19-20 depend from what should be an allowable claim 18. Kulatunge does not make up for the deficiencies of Kinser, Kidder, and Kannan noted above with regard to claims 1 and 18. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 4 and 19-20 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 18. Claim 17 recites limitations substantially similar to those recited in claims 1 and 18. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 17 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 18. Kulatunge does not make up for the deficiencies of Kinser, Kidder, and Kannan noted above with regard to claims 1 and 18. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 4, 17, 19, and 20 is respectfully requested.

Rejections of claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinser, in view of Kidder, and further in view of Kannan and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,648 issued to Frigo, or U.S. Patent No. 6,208,776 issued to Prohaska. Claims 24 and 25 depend from what

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should be an allowable claim 1. Frigo does not make up for the deficiencies of Kinser, Kidder and Kannan noted above with regard to claim 1. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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